ATLAS MYSTIC

MYSTIC... THE MOST EERIE STORIES EVER TOLD!

MYSTIC

SEPT. NO. 23

10¢

DON'T MISS THESE OTHER MYSTIC TALES!

DON'T SHRINK SAM'S HEAD!

PERFECT PLANET!

HUGO!

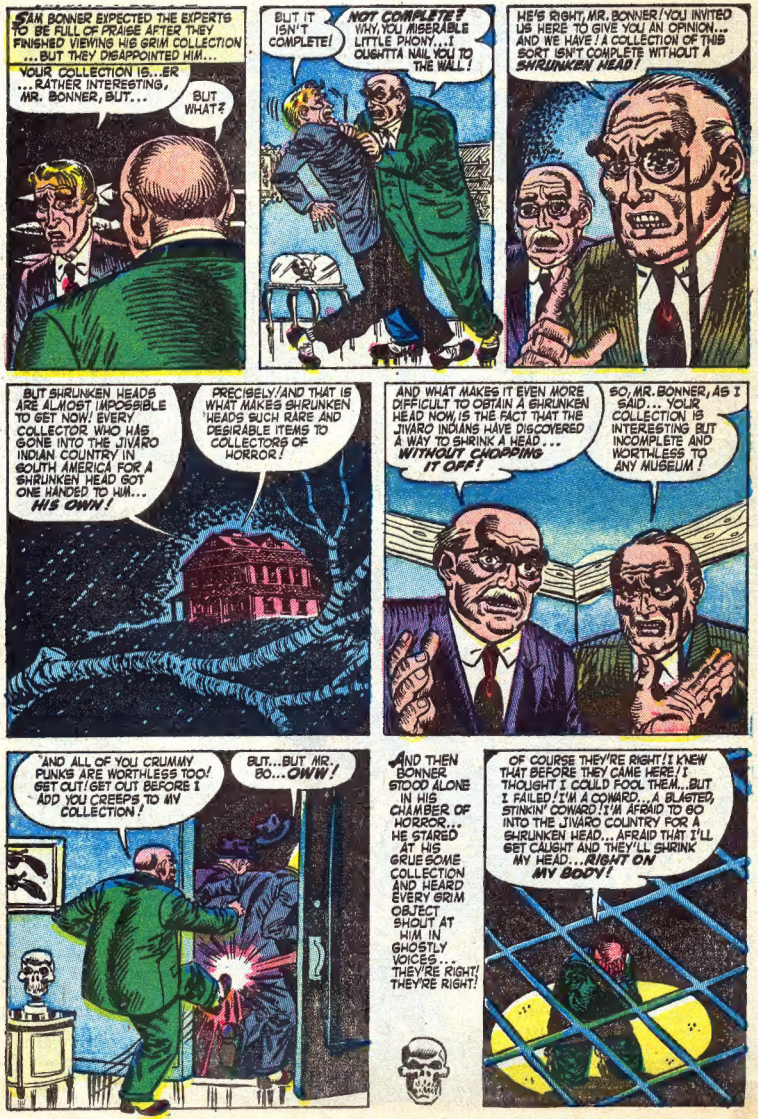
WHEN WE SAY THESE ARE CHILLING TALES, WE AIN'T KIDDIN'!

ON SALE MONTHLY

SOME PEOPLE COLLECT STAMPS... OTHERS, COINS OR OLD BOOKS! BUT SAM HAS THE MOST UNIQUE COLLECTION IN THE WORLD... AND THERE'S ONLY **ONE** THING MISSING TO MAKE IT COMPLETE! SO, COLLECT YOUR WITS, URCHINS, AND FEAST YOUR EYES ON SAM'S SPECIMENS!

DON'T SHRINK SAM'S HEAD!

FIRST, SAM BONNER, COLLECTOR OF HORROR, SHOWED THE EXPERTS THE MUMMIFIED HAND OF NERO, THE ROMAN TYRANT..
NEXT HE SHOWED THEM THE SKULL OF THE GREAT INDIAN CHIEF... SITTING BULL...
AFTER THAT, SAM LET THEM GAZE AT THE COMPLETE SKELETON OF QUASIMODO... THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME...
THEN HE POINTED WITH PRIDE TO HIS PETRIFIED VAMPIRE...
...AND THIS, GENTLEMEN, IS THE LATEST ADDITION TO MY COLLECTION OF HORROR... A STUFFED WEREWOLF!
ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST MYSTIC TALES!


SAM BONNER EXPECTED THE EXPERTS TO BE FULL OF PRAISE AFTER THEY FINISHED VIEWING HIS GRIM COLLECTION ...BUT THEY DISAPPOINTED HIM...
YOUR COLLECTION IS...ER ...RATHER INTERESTING, MR. BONNER, BUT...
BUT WHAT?
BUT IT ISN'T COMPLETE!
NOT COMPLETE? WHY, YOU MISERABLE LITTLE PHONY...I OUGHTTA NAIL YOU TO THE WALL!
HE'S RIGHT, MR. BONNER! YOU INVITED US HERE TO GIVE YOU AN OPINION... AND WE HAVE! A COLLECTION OF THIS SORT ISN'T COMPLETE WITHOUT A SHRUNKEN HEAD!
BUT SHRUNKEN HEADS ARE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO GET NOW! EVERY COLLECTOR WHO HAS GONE INTO THE JIVARO INDIAN COUNTRY IN SOUTH AMERICA FOR A SHRUNKEN HEAD GOT ONE HANDED TO HIM... HIS OWN!
PRECISELY! AND THAT IS WHAT MAKES SHRUNKEN HEADS SUCH RARE AND DESIRABLE ITEMS TO COLLECTORS OF HORROR!
AND WHAT MAKES IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN A SHRUNKEN HEAD NOW, IS THE FACT THAT THE JIVARO INDIANS HAVE DISCOVERED A WAY TO SHRINK A HEAD... WITHOUT CHOPPING IT OFF!
SO, MR. BONNER, AS I SAID... YOUR COLLECTION IS INTERESTING BUT INCOMPLETE AND WORTHLESS TO ANY MUSEUM!
AND ALL OF YOU CRUMMY PUNKS ARE WORTHLESS TOO! GET OUT! GET OUT BEFORE I ADD YOU CREEPS TO MY COLLECTION!
BUT...BUT MR. BO...OWW!
AND THEN BONNER STOOD ALONE IN HIS CHAMBER OF HORROR... HE STARED AT HIS GRUESOME COLLECTION AND HEARD EVERY GRIM OBJECT SHOUT AT HIM IN GHOSTLY VOICES... THEY'RE RIGHT! THEY'RE RIGHT!
OF COURSE THEY'RE RIGHT! I KNEW THAT BEFORE THEY CAME HERE! I THOUGHT I COULD FOOL THEM...BUT I FAILED! I'M A COWARD...A BLASTED, STINKIN' COWARD! I'M AFRAID TO GO INTO THE JIVARO COUNTRY FOR A SHRUNKEN HEAD...AFRAID THAT I'LL GET CAUGHT AND THEY'LL SHRINK MY HEAD...RIGHT ON MY BODY!

THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED WERE MISERABLE ONES FOR SAM BONNER! HE'D HAD GIVEN ANYTHING FOR A SHRUNKEN HEAD...EXCEPT, OF COURSE, HIS OWN...

I'VE GOT TO GET ONE...I MUST! IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS MY COLLECTION FROM BEING COMPLETE! IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY TO MAKE MY HEAD SHRINK-PROOF!

YES, THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE SOLUTION! THERE MUST BE A WAY...PROFESSOR ZUKOR IS THE MAN TO KNOW IT!

TWENTY MINUTES LATER, SAM WAS AT THE PROFESSOR'S LABORATORY... AND AFTER HE HAD FINISHED HIS STORY...

OF COURSE I CAN DO IT, MR. BONNER ...FOR A PRICE!

ANYTHING, PROFESSOR ZUKOR... ANYTHING!

THE PRICE WAS AGREED UPON...AND THE PROFESSOR WENT TO WORK...

FIRST IMMERSE YOUR HEAD IN THIS SOLUTION!

NOW, WHILE YOUR HEAD IS STILL WET, I'LL COVER IT WITH THIS PLASTIC DOME...

THEN I'LL PULL THE SWITCH FOR THE INFRA-RED RAYS AND...

IT'S ALL OVER, MR. BONNER! NOW NOTHING CAN SHRINK YOUR HEAD...NOT EVEN JIVARO INDIANS!

SAM LOST NO TIME AFTER THAT! A FEW DAYS LATER, HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO QUITO, CAPITAL OF ECUADOR, TO GET GOVERNMENT PERMISSION TO ENTER THE JUNGLES OF THE ORIENTE TERRITORY... THE HOME OF THE JIVARO HEAD-SHRINKERS!

PERMISSION WAS GRANTED...BUT ONLY AFTER A FEW PALMS WERE GREASED WITH GOOD OL' AMERICAN BUCKS! THEN SAM TRIED TO HIRE PACK-CARRIERS AND A GUIDE...

OKAY, YOU CROOKS...THEN I'LL PAY YOU FIVE HANDFULS OF SALT...THAT'S TWICE WHAT YOU ALWAYS GET!

NO! NO GO FOR BIG FULL OF SALT! LAND OF NAIDE—NAIDE TABOO! WE NO GO! YOU BETTER NO GO!

ALL RIGHT, YOU BLASTED COWARD...I'LL GO ALONE! I'LL FIND THE HEAD-SHRINKERS WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

OWN!

SAM BONNER WAS DESPERATE... AND DESPERATE MEN DO DESPERATE THINGS! HE HACKED HIS WAY THROUGH THE THE TANGLED JUNGLE FOR MANY DAYS AND NIGHTS...
I'VE GOT TO FIND THE PLACE...I'VE GOT TO! NOTHING IS GOING TO STOP ME NOW...NOTHING!
AND ON THE SIXTH DAY, HE DID FIND A JIVARO VILLAGE...
IT'S DESERTED! THEY MUST'VE GONE HUNTING! IF I CAN FIND THE CHIEF'S TROPHY HUT I'LL BE ABLE TO GET ALL THE SHRUNKEN HEADS I CAN CARRY!
AH-H, HERE IT IS...THE JIVARO TROPHY ROOM! AND GOOD HEAVENS! SOME OF THOSE HEADS...I...I RECOGNIZE THEM! THERE'S KIRK HUDSON, THE WILD GAME HUNTER... AND BUCK CARTER, THE COLLECTOR...
BUT THIS AIN'T NO TIME FOR REMINISCING! I BETTER GRAB A BUNCH OF THOSE SHRUNKEN HEADS AND GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE JIVAROS GET BACK!
SAM GOT THE HEADS...BUT WHEN HE TURNED TO GET OUT WITH THEM...
STAY! OR JIVARO SPEAR HAVE HEART FOR TROPHY!
HUH? H-HOLY SMOKES! T-THE JIVAROS!!
SAM WAS TAKEN TO THE JIVARO CHIEF AND SENTENCE WAS PASSED IMMEDIATELY...
HE WHO STEAL...DIE! HE WHO TRY STEAL TSANTA* ...HAVE HIM HEAD MADE SMALL...ON BODY!
AW, YOU AIN'T SCARIN' ME, CHIEF! YOU CAN'T SHRINK MY HEAD!
*SHRUNKEN HEAD
JIVARO CAN SHRINK ANY HEAD! IF JIVARO FAIL... WE GIVE YOU SHRUNKEN HEAD FROM TROPHY ROOM AND LET YOU GO!
O.K. CHIEFIE... YOU GOT YOURSELF A BET! START SHRINKING SAM'S HEAD... IF YOU CAN!

THE HEAD-SHRINKING CEREMONY BEGAN WITH THE DRINK OF DARKNESS...

FIRST YOU DRINK THIS...SO YOU FEEL NO PAIN!

OKAY... HERE'S LOOKIN' AT YOU, CHIEF!

SAM'S SENSES REELED! AND JUST BEFORE HE PASSED OUT, HE SAW THE CHIEF COMING TOWARD HIM WITH A SPEAR...

AND THAT WAS THE LAST SAM REMEMBERED! HE DIDN'T SEE THEM MAKING THE POTENT BREW FROM CHAMBIRA AND TARAPUTU BARK...

HE DIDN'T FEEL THEM COVERING HIS HEAD WITH QUECHUA LEAVES...

SAM BONNER DIDN'T SEE OR FEEL A LOT OF THINGS... FOR NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO WITNESS THE SECRET HEAD-SHRINKING PROCESS OF THE JIVAROS...

SAM DIDN'T KNOW HOW LONG HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS... BUT WHEN HE CAME TO, HE FOUND ALL THE JIVAROS STARING AT HIM IN AMAZEMENT...

WELL?

YOU RIGHT! JIVARO FAIL! NO CAN SHRINK YOUR HEAD!

AND THE JIVAROS KEPT THEIR PROMISE! THEY GAVE SAM ONE OF THEIR SHRUNKEN HEADS AND SET HIM FREE! TWO WEEKS LATER HE WAS BACK IN HIS CHAMBER OF HORROR SHOWING HIS NEWEST ADDITION TO THE EXPERTS...AND THIS TIME THEY WERE MORE THAN AMAZED...

...AND SO YOU WON YOUR BET WITH THE JIVARO CHIEF?

I SURE DID...AND HERE'S THE SHRUNKEN HEAD TO PROVE IT!

THEY TRIED TO DO THAT TO ME...BUT I TOLD THEM...YOU *CAN'T SHRINK SAM'S HEAD!*

THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

TRIBAL MASK

JOHN MINOR sank into the well-used leather chair in the book-lined room that was his study in the large, old dark house on Ridge Road. His eyes were fixed on the long, cold marble table across the room. The objects on the table were completely motionless, and yet John's eye stared.

A noise startled him, and he turned toward the door in back of him . . . the door that lead from the living room. Yes, it had been a knock on the door.

"Oh, come in, if you MUST," John grumbled, turning now-cold eyes on the young man who stood in the doorway. The young man was John's only living relative, his nephew Conrad Minor. Conrad was a tall person, slightly on the thin side, and was quite different from his Uncle John, who left little room in the leather chair when he sat in it every evening after his dinner.

"Yes? Well, what is it, young man?" John grumbled again.

"Well, nothing in particular, Uncle John," Conrad smiled, trying to overlook his Uncle's unfriendliness, which he should have been quite used to by then. Then he said, "I just thought it would be interesting to have a look at your collection . . . I've never really had the opportunity to look at the figures carefully since your return from Africa last month, you know. May I, Uncle John?"

"Hold on, Conrad . . . remember . . . I forbid you to touch the figures . . . this is an absolutely priceless collection, the only one of it's kind in the country, and if one should break it would be a great tragedy. Remember, now . . . you are never to lay your hands on the statues."

Conrad wondered at his Uncle's extreme cautiousness with regard to the collection of hand-carved ebony figures. Even when John talked about the figures, his eyes glistened with a strange fierceness. When he touched them, (for he was the only one who was able to), his fingers quivered with uncontrollable excitement, and even seemed to hesitate, as if he were afraid one careless touch would destroy the entire collection.

The figures were of black, black ebony-wood, and were likenesses of the deep African tribal natives, their faces amazing in their reality, their spears as sharp-pointed as those the actual natives carried with them, their shields exact even to the crudeness of the originals, and the bodies . . . the bodies glistening black as the bodies of the living natives themselves.

John was too engrossed in his collection, which consisted of almost thirty figures, to hear Conrad speak the first time.

Then Conrad repeated, "Uncle John . . . won't you tell me the story behind these figures? The story of how you obtained them, and perhaps some tales about the natives they represent? You view the figures with a strange intensity, and yet you talk of them so little to me, or to anyone, for that matter."

Uncle John turned livid. "Conrad, I absolutely forbid you to ask me questions about the carved figures. I ABSOLUTELY FORBID IT! DO YOU UNDERSTAND? DO YOU?"

The outburst stunned Conrad for a moment, but then he asked, "Not even the smallest bit of **information**? There MUST be a story behind these, Uncle."

John's eyes burned into his nephew's. "Alright, then, Conrad . . . if it's a story you want . . . here it is. It's really quite simple . . . I spent two months with the Nigaina tribe, becoming friendly with the natives in the village. I taught their medicine man ways to heal wounds

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY...

FAT FOLKS! *Your Dream Has Come True!*

How to Lose UGLY FAT Without Dieting – Hunger!

- NO DIET
- NO EXERCISE
- NO "METHODS"
- NO "PLANS"
- NO DRUGS

DOCTORS approve and recommend MELTABS because it contains no drugs. The formula is the discovery of a group of doctors associated with one of New York's leading hospitals.

If you are a normal, healthy, overweight man or woman by all means read about this amazing, new, clinically tested medical discovery that is already creating a sensation all over the country.

Forget all about diets, hunger, calorie counting, massage, drugs, exercise and all other unpleasant, unnecessary things usually associated with reducing.

For a great medical discovery now makes it possible for you to lose pounds of excess fat safely — *without dieting, without having a single hungry moment.*

Doctors Discover Meltabs

Most doctors agree that the best way to lose excess fat is to eat less — to go on a restricted diet. A group of New York doctors, making a special study of obesity, realized however, that while dieting was desirable it wasn't as easy or as simple as it sounds for most overweight people.

Men: Why not try MELTABS, the natural way to take off excess weight that's neither good for you nor good to look at

Meltabs has been clinically tested by doctors connected with one of New York's largest hospitals.

Hunger — The Fat Person's Enemy!

Dieting for most folks means hunger. And few people can resist hunger. So they appease it by eating between meals, by going off their diets. And back come the unwanted pounds and inches.

So these New York doctors worked for years searching for a formula that would lick hunger and make people lose fat safely, *without dieting.* They finally announced success in a food adjunct called MELTABS.

Clinical Tests Proved Their Discovery

The doctors clinically tested MELTABS on a large group of non-glandular overweight men and women.

The group undergoing the tests were instructed by the doctors to chew or suck a tasty MELTABS before each meal, but not to go on any special diet, not to cut out any special foods — just sit down at the table and eat until satisfied.

Results Amazing

Every member of the group lost 8 to 20 pounds in a short period of time; in fact satisfactory weight losses were noticed the very first week. And not a single person said she had a hungry moment.

Meltabs as Harmless as Water

A food adjunct — not a drug

During the tests the doctors carefully checked the physical condition of each member of the group, took electro-cardiograms, and did not find a single case of ill effect. Everyone said she never felt better. So at last, the fat person's dream has come true — a way to lose excess fat without dieting, without hunger, without giving up the foods she likes.

Start slimming down your figure. Get MELTABS today. $3 for a month's supply. GUARANTEE: If you aren't pleased with the weight you lose after using one bottle of MELTABS you get your money back.

How Meltabs Prevents Overeating — Hunger

According to scientific calculations, one Meltabs wafer has the hunger satisfying capacity of 1 lb. boiled potatoes, or 8 slices white bread, or 4 eggs — yet it contains only 5 calories.

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26 East 46th St., New York 17, N. Y.

Send me 30 Day Supply of MELTABS.
I enclose $3.00 for postpaid delivery. ☐
Send C. O. D. — I will pay postman $3.00 plus postal charges. ☐

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

Your money back if you don't LOSE WEIGHT

AND THAT'S THE LONG AND SHORT OF SAM, THE HORROR-COLLECTION MAN! THERE'S GONNA BE A HOT TIME ON THE OLD PLANET EARTH, AS THE SUN SHINES BRIGHT, SO SLIP ON YOUR DARK GLASSES AND SET YOUR SIGHTS TOWARD OUTER SPACE...THIS WEIRDIE IS *OUT* OF THIS WORLD!

THE PERFECT PLANET!

IT IS THE YEAR 2,300! EARTH HAS SUDDENLY SLIPPED FROM ITS AGE-OLD ORBIT AROUND THE SUN AND NOW CIRCLES CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE FLAMING MASS! MAN MUST FIND A NEW PLANET ON WHICH TO LIVE OR STARVE IN THE WHITE-HOT RAYS OF THE SUN...

ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST MYSTIC TALES!

WATER... MUST HAVE WATER!

THERE IS NO WATER... THAT ACCURSED SUN IS DRYING IT UP.. AS IT IS OUR BODIES AND SOULS!

ROSS ANDRU

C 757

LOOK AT THEM, DYING BY THE TENS OF THOUSANDS! IS THERE NO RELIEF FROM THIS BLASTED HEAT AND THIRST?

NONE! EARTH COMES CLOSER TO THE SUN EACH DAY...THE RIVERS ARE DUST... THE OCEANS SALT WASTES! WE HAVE ONLY ENOUGH WATER TO LAST FOR SIX MORE MONTHS!

THE SPACE SHIP IS COMING IN...THE LAST ONE THAT WENT OUT!

LET'S PRAY THEY HAVE FOUND A NEW PLANET WHERE MAN CAN MIGRATE AND LIVE!

THE SHIP COMES IN... ITS ATOMIC JETS SPUTTERING UNEVENLY... ITS HULL BATTERED AND SCARRED BY FAR-FLUNG METEORS...
IT JUST ABOUT MADE IT... IT'S A WRECK!
THEY WAIT AS GAUNT AND WEARY SPACE-MEN CRAWL FROM THE DYING METAL CARCASS OF THEIR SHIP...
WHAT DID YOU FIND? WHAT PLANET DID YOU EXPLORE?
ALL THOSE THAT THE OTHER SHIPS DIDN'T EXPLORE... ALL BUT ONE, THAT IS!
DID YOU FIND ONE WHERE MANKIND CAN LIVE? SPEAK, MAN, SPEAK...
NONE! THEY ARE UNINHABITABLE WORLDS, THEIR SURFACES SEETHING MASSES OF POISON OR GAS... OR TEEMING WITH INDESCRIBABLE MONSTERS AND DISEASE!
WHERE ARE THE OTHER SPACE SHIPS?
NONE HAVE RETURNED! ALL THE OTHERS WERE SMASHED ON SOME ALIEN PLANET!
THEIR SONIC-RADIO BEAMS WERE PICKED UP... THEIR REPORTS THE GAME AS YOURS ... NO PLANET FIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION!
IN ALL THE GALAXY... IN ALL OF SPACE, NO PLACE WHERE MANKIND CAN LIVE! WE MUST STAY HERE UNTIL THE SUN DEVOURS US!
THERE WAS ONE PLANET WE DIDN'T EXPLORE... A SATELLITE OF VENUS! OUR SHIP BEGAN TO FAIL AND WE BEAMED IT FOR HOME!
THEY ARE STIRRED WITH A SUDDEN EAGERNESS... A TINY HOPE! THEY ARE CLUTCHING AT STRAWS NOW...
ONE PLANET UNEXPLORED! PERHAPS IT'S THE ONE! YOU MUST GO BACK... YOU MUST FIND OUT!
OUR SHIP ISN'T FIT FOR FLIGHT, AND I SEE NO OTHER SHIP HERE ... EXCEPT THAT OLD RELIC THE STAR 1... THE FIRST SPACE SHIP MAN EVER FLEW!
COME TO THE CHART ROOM, CAPTAIN! WE WILL PLOT THE COURSE AND FIGURE THE FLIGHT TIME TO THIS VENUS SATELLITE!
YOU, MEN, GO OVER THE SHIP! FIND OUT WHAT MUST BE DONE AND HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE TO DO IT!

FEVERISHLY THEY WORK IN THE CHART ROOM, MEN AND WOMEN WITH A TINY GLITTER OF HOPE...
THE COURSE MUST BE AN ARC! IT IS THE SEASON FOR METEORS IN THAT ORBIT... THEREFORE THE PASSAGE WILL BE DANGEROUS! WHAT SHIP WILL YOU TAKE FOR THE FLIGHT? I MUST COMPUTE JET THRUST AND WEIGHT AGAINST CONSIDERED FACTORS TO ESTIMATE FLIGHT TIME!
THERE'S ONLY ONE SHIP!
CAPTAIN...OUR SHIP IS A WRECK! IT WOULD TAKE TWO MONTHS TO REPAIR IT!
WE CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...YOU'LL HAVE TO ATTEMPT THE FLIGHT IN THE STAR 1!
I KNOW IT'S A RELIC... BUT IT CAN STILL FLY THROUGH SPACE! IN 6 MONTHS THE WATER WILL BE GONE...THE EARTH SO CLOSE TO THE SUN THAT MAN WILL BE BURNED ALIVE! IT WOULD BE THE END! THE STAR 1 IS OUR ONLY HOPE!
HERE ARE THE FIGURES ON THE FLIGHT TIME IN THE STAR 1! THREE MONTHS AND 20 DAYS TO GET THERE AND RETURN!
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL CHANCE IT, MIGHT AS WELL DIE IN SPACE AS BURN HERE! BUT SUPPOSE WE FIND THE PLANET SAFE! HOW CAN THE PEOPLE GET THERE WITHOUT SHIPS?
WE HAVE THE MACHINERY AND METALS... ALL THE NECESSARY PARTS! IF THE PEOPLE HAVE HOPE, THEY WILL WORK LIKE DOGS AND BUILD ENOUGH SHIPS IN A MONTH TO LEAVE EARTH AND FLY TO THEIR NEW HOME! ALL WE NEED IS A NEW PLANET... A PLACE FOR THE RACE TO SURVIVE!
SIR, WE WOMEN WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE TRIP TOO! WE'RE ALL EXPERIENCED IN SPACE FLIGHT AND MECHANICS! WE CAN DO OUR JOBS WELL!
NO! THIS IS NO FLIGHT FOR WOMEN, ESPECIALLY IN THE STAR 1! WE ARE FIGHTING FOR THE SURVIVAL OF OUR RACE, GIRL...THIS IS NO IDLE ADVENTURE! YOU CANNOT GO!
THEY WALK TO THE STAR 1 WITH THE SPACEMEN... THEIR VOICES TIGHT WITH EMOTION! BENEATH THE REACHING SUN, LAST WORDS ARE SPOKEN...
THE SONIC-RADIO BEAMS ON THIS OLD SHIP AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO REACH US HERE FROM VENUS' SATELLITE SO WE WON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE FOUND UNTIL YOU RETURN! WE HAVE 6 MONTHS...THE TRIP WILL TAKE 3 MONTHS AND 20 DAYS...
AND IF WE DON'T RETURN BY THEN?
THEN WE'LL KNOW THAT THE PLANET KILLED YOU AND YOUR SHIP...THAT IT IS UNINHABITABLE ...THAT THERE IS NO HOPE LEFT FOR MANKIND BUT BURNING OBLIVION! LUCK AND GOD SPEED, MY FRIEND! ON YOU RESTS THE HOPE OF OUR WORLD!
SHE'S AS GOOD AS SHE'LL EVER BE, SIR! WE'VE TIGHTENED AND OILED AND TESTED AND DONE WHAT WE CAN! BRING BACK GOOD NEWS!
I HOPE TO! GOOD-BYE!

THE JETS ROAR AND SPIT FLAME AND SMOKE! SLOWLY THE OLD SHIP MOVES UPWARD TOWARD THE VAST BLUE DOME OF INFINITY...

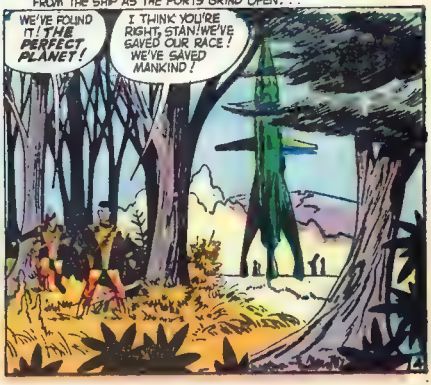
SHE GATHERS SPEED, REJECTS THE EARTH AS THOUGH EAGER TO LEAVE THE SCORCHED PLANET TO WHICH SHE'S BEEN TIED FOR SO LONG...

DAYS, WEEKS PASS IN THE BUOYANT SILENCE OF SPACE! WITHIN THE SHIP, TENSE MEN WATCH VENUS LOOM IN THE BLACKNESS...SEE HER SATELLITE COME CLOSER AND CLOSER...

THE SATELLITE LOOMS CLOSER! NOW THE SHIP HOVERS OVER THIS NEW WORLD... AND THERE'S HOPE IN THE HEARTS OF THESE MEN...

IT LOOKS GOOD.. AWFULLY GOOD! DID YOU RUN A TEST ON ATMOSPHERE, STAN?
RUNNING IT NOW! SEEMS THE SAME AS EARTH'S SAME BASIC CHEMICAL AND GASEOUS CONTENT IN EQUITABLE MEASURE, CAPTAIN... PURE, FRESH AIR THAT A MAN CAN BREATHE!

THE SHIP SETTLES DOWN ON THE FAIR SURFACE OF THIS LAND IN A MEADOW OF LUSH GRASS NEAR A TINKLING BROOK! ALL HANDS RUSH FROM THE SHIP AS THE PORTS GRIND OPEN...



LIKE HAPPY CHILDREN, THEY RUN THROUGH THE GRASS, BREATHE DEEPLY OF THE SWEET AIR... THEY LAUGH AND CAVORT UNDER THE SUNNY SKY... FEEL THE GLOW GENTLE BREEZE CARESS THEIR CHEEKS...
THE PERFECT PLANET! A NEW LIFE FOR MANKIND THAT WILL GO ON AND ON!
THE WATER'S WONDERFUL!
THE FRUIT'S DELICIOUS!
IF WE COULD ONLY RADIO THE GOOD NEWS BACK TO EARTH! BUT OUR SIGNAL WON'T REACH THAT FAR!
WE'LL TELL THEM IN PERSON! LET'S GO, MEN... EVERY MOMENT IS PRECIOUS! WE'LL CIRCLE AROUND THE PLANET TO MAKE SURE IT'S ALL AS GOOD AS THIS... THEN WE'LL HEAD STRAIGHT FOR HOME!
THEY HATE TO LEAVE SO QUICKLY, BUT THEY KNOW THEY MUST!
TAKE HER UP, JOHNNY! JOHNNY, GET THOSE JETS FIRING! JOHNNY, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THE JETS... THEY WON'T WORK... WON'T BUDGE! I-I THINK THEY'RE GONE!
CRAWL IN AND CHECK THOSE JETS! HURRY, MAN!
THEY CHECK THE JETS... THEY RETURN TO THE CONTROL CABIN! THE OTHERS WAIT, THEIR FACES GRIM, THEIR THOUGHTS BACK THRU SPACE, TO EARTH AND THOSE THAT WAIT THERE...
WELL?
THE JETS ARE SHOT! WE'LL NEVER GET OFF THE SURFACE! MAYBE WE COULD REPAIR THEM, BUT I DOUBT IT! ANYWAY, WITHOUT MACHINES IT WOULD TAKE US OVER A YEAR!
IN SILENCE THEY LEAVE THE SHIP... STAND ON THE SURFACE OF THIS SMILING LAND, EACH MAN ALONE WITH HIS THOUGHTS...
THE GIRLS WANTED TO COME, AND WE SAID NO! WE ARE FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL OF OUR RACE! IF THEY WERE HERE, OUR RACE WOULD SURVIVE!
YES, I REMEMBER! IN A FEW SHORT MONTHS, THE EARTH WILL BE AFLAME! WHEN WE DON'T RETURN, THEY'LL GIVE UP ALL HOPE...
THEY'LL NEVER KNOW WE FOUND THE PERFECT PLANET... WHERE OUR RACE COULD SURVIVE!
WE THOUGHT WE FOUND THE PERFECT PLANET ON WHICH MANKIND COULD LIVE INSTEAD. WE'VE FOUND ONLY A PLACE WHERE THE LAST OF OUR RACE WILL DIE!
DON'T MISS THE ASTOUNDING SEQUEL TO THIS TALE... THE GREAT MIGRATION... IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MYSTIC!

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

STOP FILLING YOUR BODY FULL OF UNPRESCRIBED DRUGS, LAXATIVES or STARVING YOURSELF WITH DANGEROUS DIETS . . .

NOW TRY THIS AMAZING NEW INVENTION

REDUSAWAY

REDUSAWAY, the amazing new electric home masseur works without exercise, diets, laxatives or drugs. Apply REDUSAWAY to arms, legs, abdomen, neck, chest, hips or any other part that causes you embarrassment and annoyance and see what it will do for you.

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FOR ACHES AND PAINS—Use for aches and pains where massage is indicated. REDUSAWAY is wonderful for the relief of discomforts for which physicians normally prescribe massage.

FOR RELAXATION AND RELIEF OF FATIGUE—ELECTRIC REDUSAWAY is also wonderful for the relief of fatigue as a result of over-exertion and works on the same principle as the hands of a masseur, gently massaging the fatigued muscles whether athlete or housewife.

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Rush my **REDUSAWAY,** by return mail, in plain wrapper. If I don't feel invigorated—if I'm not delighted with the results in 10 days I may return **REDUSAWAY** for full refund of purchase price.

- ☐ Enclosed find $7.95. (Ward Green pays postage.)
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...CONTINUED

and sicknesses that he never knew existed. I taught them innumerable things . . . how to weave bright cloths, how to do a hundred and one things to improve their village life. And for the help I gave them, one of the finest craftsmen in Africa, the native Magana, carved for me these figures in appreciation of what I had done."

In that instant after John spoke, Conrad could see that his uncle lied, that he hid some terrible story from the world behind those burning eyes. And then the crashing noise resounded thru the small room. The two men turned back to the table, and both gasped.

Three of the figures had fallen from the table to the floor, and lay there broken in a hundred pieces.

"You . . . YOU . . . CONRAD . . . YOU DID THIS . . . YOU DID THIS," John cried hysterically.

But Conrad knew that neither of them had been standing near to the table, and assumed that the wind had blown them over on to the floor. Without a word of defense, he walked from the room and left his Uncle John kneeling on the floor beside the broken figures.

John Minor didn't sleep much that night. And in Conrad's room, a young man twisted in his sleep, questions running through his uneasy mind.

John was almost asleep when he heard the noise that made him sit up in bed and stare at the open door. A thumping sound . . . as though something . . . something wooden, were thumping up the stairs to the bedroom floor. The sound got closer, and it wasn't more than a moment later that he saw on the wall of his bedroom a shadow . . . a shadow of a huge, towering native, spear in hand, poised . . .

John looked down . . . in the doorway stood one of the wooden statues . . . as small as the others, but the frightening image on the wall was still there.

"It's Conrad . . . Conrad," John thought, wiping his forehead, ". . . doing this thing to me . . . torturing me because he knows my story is untrue."

Then as he strained to hear, a whispered voice came to his ears. The voice was that of one of the Nigaina tribe . . . the language halting . . . "Not Conrad who torture you . . . but Nigaina . . . you think you destroy all evidence of your crime when you burn big meeting hut and kill all Nigaina inside . . . after you steal statues of precious ebony . . . do not be fooled . . . the spirit of dead Nigaina live again in statues you have stolen from us . . . you shall pay for crime, not with point of spear as animal die, but with mental spear which will drive you insane . . . no one believe you if you tell . . . and so you shall pay."

"EEEEIIGHHH . . . NO . . . YOU CAN'T DO THIS . . . I'LL TELL THEM . . . SPIRITS IN THE FIGURES . . . THEY'LL BELIEVE ME . . . I'LL BE HATED, SPURNED, BUT YOU WON'T TORTURE ME LIKE THAT . . . COMEBACK . . . COME B-BACK!!"

John continued to rave during the night, and toward the early morning, three more shadows appeared at the bedroom door, but John was too dazed to understand.

Conrad stood beside the two uniformed men in white, shaking his head. Yes, his Uncle John was without a doubt gone mad . . . his story was too fantastic for a truth. A half-hour later, the huge house on Ridge Road was empty, and an ambulance rolled away from its door. And inside the house, in the book-lined study, the ebony-wood statues stood erect on the long, marble table . . . spears and shields poised . . . but the polished ebony shone with peculiar brilliance about the dark faces.

THE END B-494

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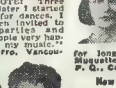
How Plays For Dances

"I DIDN'T KNOW ONE NOTE! Three months later I started to play for dances. I have been invited to many parties and made people very happy with my music."—Miss Rosie Montmurro, Vancouver, B. C., Canada.



Learns Faster

"I have no special talent—but thanks to your method, I play my guitar (according to impartial people) better than many students who have taken lessons from teachers for longer periods."—Myrelle Duquette Saint-Andre, Montreal, P. Q., Canada.

Amazes Her Friends

"I bet some friends that I could learn piano quickly. They didn't believe me—because I am slow learning. Imagine their surprise when I played for them. Cheer said. "Why it sounds like you've been playing for years!"—Louise Gomez, Oakland, Cal.

Now Famous Band Leader

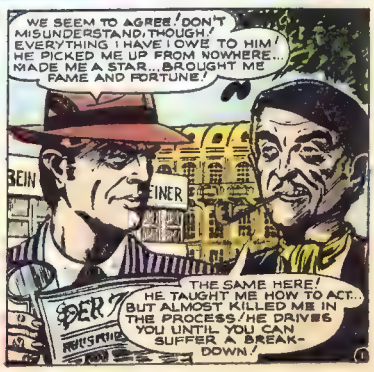
"I got my start in music with a U. S. School Course. How easy it is to learn to read notes and play an instrument this 'teach yourself way'! I've enrolled my two daughters."—Lawrence Welk, top band leader.

OKAY, YOU AMATEUR ACTORS... TAKE A LOOK HOW A GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS HAVE TO STAND THE GUFF OF A TOUGH DIRECTOR WHO THINKS NOTHING OF REHEARSING INTO THE WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING! HUGO DEMANDS **PERFECTION**... AND INTENDS TO HAVE IT! BUT... **HOW PERFECT** CAN YOU GET?

HUGO

HUGO, HAVE A HEART! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, MAN, IT'S PAST TWO IN THE MORNING!
YES... PLEASE, HUGO... I'M MUCH TOO TIRED! TOMORROW WE CAN...
ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST MYSTIC TALES!
NO! NO! NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT! WE'RE GOING TO DO IT... AND DO IT RIGHT! NO ONE LEAVES UNTIL I AM SATISFIED WITH EVERYONE'S PERFORMANCE!

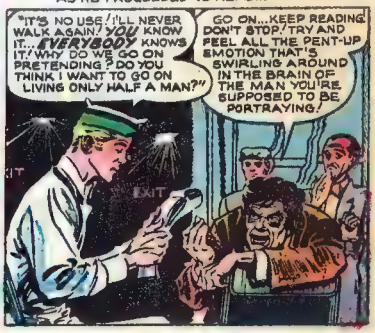
HAVE YOU READ ABOUT THE NEW PLAY HUGO IS DIRECTING, FRANZ? THE LEADING ROLE IS THE JUICIEST PART IN YEARS!
YES... I'D GIVE MY EYETOOTH FOR THAT PART. BUT NOT IF HUGO'S THE DIRECTOR!


WE SEEM TO AGREE! DON'T MISUNDERSTAND, THOUGH! EVERYTHING I HAVE I OWE TO HIM! HE PICKED ME UP FROM NOWHERE... MADE ME A STAR... BROUGHT ME FAME AND FORTUNE!
THE SAME HERE! HE TAUGHT ME HOW TO ACT... BUT ALMOST KILLED ME IN THE PROCESS! HE DRIVES YOU UNTIL YOU CAN SUFFER A BREAK-DOWN!

HOW TRUE! I'LL NEVER FORGET HIM...NOR WORK FOR HIM AGAIN!
I PITY THE POOR FELLOW WHO GETS THE LEAD! HUGO'LL WORK HIM TO DEATH! WELL, NICE SEEING YOU! AUF WIEDERSEHEN!
YES, FRANZ AND BRUNO KNEW HUGO BORGMAN WELL, BUT MANY WERE THE UNINFORMED WHO TRIED OUT FOR THE COVETED ROLE...
"BUT DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I CAN'T GO ON LIVING THIS WAY... A HOPELESS INVALID FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE! CAN'T YOU SEE? I WANT TO DIE... I WANT TO!"
W-WELL, MR. BORGMAN...WILL I DO? DID YOU LIKE IT?
IT WAS HORRIBLE! AN AMATEUR'S PERFORMANCE! IT'S A SACRILEGE FOR YOU TO EVEN SET FOOT ON A STAGE! GET OUT...OUT! DO YOU HEAR!
I'M SORRY, MR. BORGMAN... I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT FELLOW GOT IN...BUT THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHERS...
NO! GET RID OF ALL OF THEM! I'VE LOOKED THEM OVER, THEY JUST DON'T FIT THE PART! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND... THIS ROLE CALLS FOR A SPECIFIC TYPE!
TRY TO RELAX, MR. BORGMAN! YOU'RE ALL WORKED UP! HERE, I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF ORDERING YOUR LUNCH FROM THE RESTAURANT NEXT DOOR!
WHERE SHALL I PUT IT, SIR?
OH, ANYWHERE WILL DO! NO...GIVE IT TO ME, I'M HUNGRY!
CRASH
OH, I'M SORRY, SIR! IT'S ALL MY FAULT! HERB...I'LL CLEAN IT UP AND BRING YOU A NEW ORDER IMMEDIATELY!
NO!... STOP! JUST STAND STILL! THAT FACE...THAT VOICE! IT'S PERFECT! JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR! WHAT'S YOUR NAME, BOY?
PAUL...SIR, PAUL STERLING! I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR LUNCH, MR. BORGMAN! PLEASE, I'LL...
OH, NEVER MIND THE LUNCH, PAUL, TELL ME... HAVE YOU EVER DONE ANY ACTING? EVER GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO A CAREER ON THE STAGE?

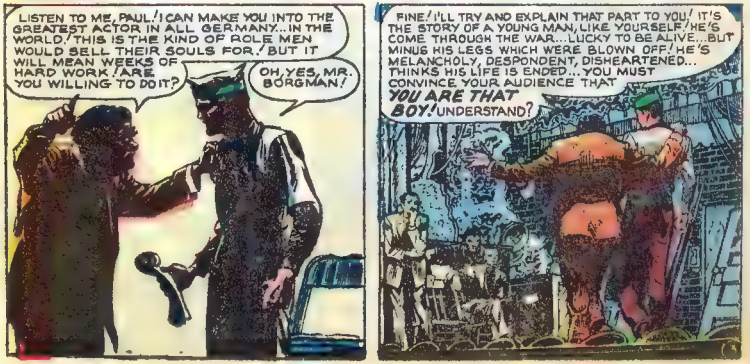
WELL, SIR...I ACTED A LITTLE BIT BACK IN SCHOOL! I NEVER THOUGHT I... MR. BORGMAN, DO YOU MEAN YOU WANT ME TO BE IN YOUR PLAY?
YES...YES! YOU'RE PERFECT FOR THE ROLE! JUST WHAT I HAD ENVISIONED! YOUR FACE...IT'S A MAN'S FACE WITH ALL THE BOYISH YOUTH THE ROLE REQUIRES! I WANT YOU TO READ FOR ME...NOW!

NERVOUSLY, PAUL TOOK THE SCRIPT AND SHUFFLED UP THE SIDE STEPS ONTO THE STAGE. HIS VOICE QUAVERED AS HE PROCEEDED TO READ...


"IT'S NO USE! I'LL NEVER WALK AGAIN! YOU KNOW IT... EVERYBODY KNOWS IT! WHY DO WE GO ON PRETENDING? DO YOU THINK I WANT TO GO ON LIVING ONLY HALF A MAN?"
GO ON...KEEP READING! DON'T STOP! TRY AND FEEL ALL THE PENT-UP EMOTION THAT'S SWIRLING AROUND IN THE BRAIN OF THE MAN YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE PORTRAYING!
EXIT

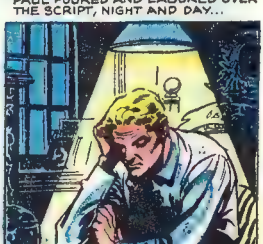
PAUL READ PAGE AFTER PAGE WITH HUGO WATCHING INTENTLY, EXPERIENCING EVERY EMOTION, SOMETIMES APPROVINGLY, SOMETIMES FROWNING IN DESPAIR AND SOMETIMES WINCING IN HORROR AS PAUL'S LACK OF EXPERIENCE SHOWED THROUGH...

GOOD! VERY GOOD! IT COULD BE BETTER...BUT WE'VE PLENTY OF TIME FOR IMPROVEMENT!
NO, NO! YOU'RE WEAK THERE! BUT GO AHEAD... READ ON.
STOP! IT'S TERRIBLE! YOU'RE NOT EVEN CONCENTRATING ON WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! OH, YOU'LL TAKE A LOT OF WORK TO BECOME PERFECT BUT I GUESS IT'S THE PRICE I'LL HAVE TO PAY!


LISTEN TO ME, PAUL! I CAN MAKE YOU INTO THE GREATEST ACTOR IN ALL GERMANY...IN THE WORLD! THIS IS THE KIND OF ROLE MEN WOULD SELL THEIR SOULS FOR! BUT IT WILL MEAN WEEKS OF HARD WORK! ARE YOU WILLING TO DO IT?
OH, YES, MR. BORGMAN!
FINE! I'LL TRY AND EXPLAIN THAT PART TO YOU! IT'S THE STORY OF A YOUNG MAN, LIKE YOURSELF! HE'S COME THROUGH THE WAR...LUCKY TO BE ALIVE...BUT MINUS HIS LEGS WHICH WERE BLOWN OFF! HE'S MELANCHOLY, DESPONDENT, DISHEARTENED... THINKS HIS LIFE IS ENDED...YOU MUST CONVINCE YOUR AUDIENCE THAT YOU ARE THAT BOY! UNDERSTAND?

NO! NO! IT'S AWFUL! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? YOU LACK ALL FEELING! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN.. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A HELPLESS CRIPPLE! CONVINCE ME OF THAT, PAUL... CONVINCE ME!
I...I'M SORRY, SIR! I'LL TRY IT AGAIN!

AND SO IT WENT FOR SEVERAL DAYS WITH HUGO COMPLIMENTING PAUL ON HIS IMPROVEMENT AT FIRST, THEN CURSING HIM WITH THE MOST VILE CRITICISMS... AND ALL THE WHILE PAUL POURED AND LABORED OVER THE SCRIPT, NIGHT AND DAY...



AND EVEN WHEN PAUL PERFECTED A PART TO HUGO'S LIKING, THERE WAS NO LET-UP...

PLEASE, MR. BORGMAN... LET'S CALL IT A DAY! I'M... I'M SO TIRED I CAN HARDLY KEEP MY EYES OPEN!
BAH! IT'S NOT EVEN FOUR A.M. YET! ALL RIGHT, BUT BE HERE BY TEN O'CLOCK SHARP! AND REMEMBER, PAUL... I'M NOT SATISFIED YET!

YOUR ACTING DOESN'T CONVINCE ME! AND THE AUDIENCE WON'T BE CONVINCED EITHER! CONCENTRATE ON THE ROLE, PAUL... LIVE IT, FEEL IT! REMEMBER YOU WERE A SOLDIER UNDER HEAVY FIRE.. YOU HAD YOUR LEGS BLOWN OFF! THINK IT EVERY MINUTE OF THE DAY! DREAM ABOUT IT!

AND PAUL DID DREAM ABOUT IT, AS HE HAD DREAMT EVER SINCE THE FIRST DAY HE MET HUGO... A POUNDING, UNRELENTING NIGHTMARE!

"TALK, TALK, TALK! THAT'S ALL I GET! OH, IT'S EASY FOR YOU TO TALK! YOU'VE ALL GOT LEGS... BUT I'M A CRIPPLE...A CRIPPLE!"
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! DO YOU HEAR ME, PAUL? I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!

GOOD HEAVENS, MR. BORGMAN... WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME? I'M DOING IT EXACTLY THE WAY YOU TOLD ME!
NO, YOU'RE NOT! THE WAY YOU READ THAT LAST LINE WILL BRING SNICKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE...NOT SYMPATHY! WE WANT THEM TO CRY...NOT LAUGH! WE'VE PUT SIX WEEKS OF REHEARSAL TIME IN ALREADY!

I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN! I CAN'T DO IT ANY BETTER! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DO IT ANY BETTER!
THEN, IT'S BEST WE FOUND OUT NOW BEFORE WASTING MORE TIME! IF THAT'S THE BEST YOU CAN DO, YOU'D BETTER PICK UP YOUR CHECK AND LEAVE!

FOR A MOMENT SILENCE REIGNED IN THE EMPTY THEATRE, ALL EYES POINTING TOWARD THE FIGURE ABOUT TO DESCEND THE STAIRS/ THEN, SUDDENLY...
PAUL! WATCH OUT!
HE'S FALLING! SOMEONE CATCH HIM!

PAUL! GOOD HEAVENS! DID YOU HURT YOURSELF? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I, I'M OKAY! JUST KNOCKED THE WIND OUT OF... SAY, WHAT ARE YOU ALL STARING AT?

IN HIS ALMOST UPSIDE-DOWN POSITION PAUL'S TROUSER LEGS HAD RUFFLED UP AROUND HIS KNEES, REVEALING
HIS LEGS! LOOK!
THEY..THEY'RE ARTIFICIAL! HE HAS NO LEGS!
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

Reader's Digest Reports Good News for all sufferers from PIMPLES

Acne, Blackheads, and Other Externally caused Skin Blemishes

SAME TYPE MEDICATION AS ALTON WAS USED IN SUCCESSFUL CLINICAL TESTS REPORTED IN Reader's Digest, *JAN., 1952* (pg 81)

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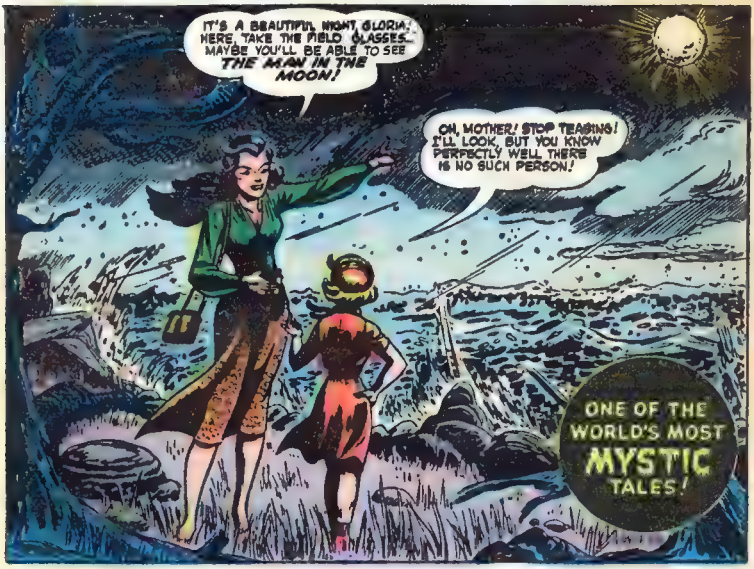
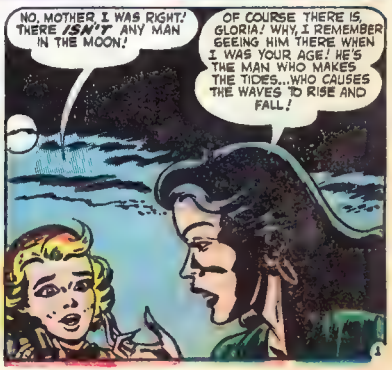
APO FPO, Canada and Foreign add 50c—no COD's

LET'S TAKE A STROLL ALONG THE SEASHORE ...THE MOON BEAMS DOWN FROM ITS SPOT IN THE HEAVENS, AND ALL'S RIGHT WITH THE WORLD! THERE'S THE MAN IN THE MOON WATCHING US...WHAT'S THAT...YOU DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S A MAN IN THE MOON? THEN YOU'RE IN THE SAME CLASS WITH LITTLE GLORIA...NOW SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO *HER!*

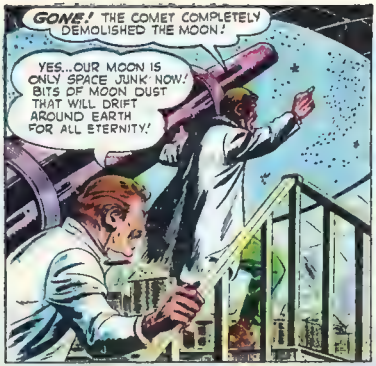
MOTHER KNOWS BEST

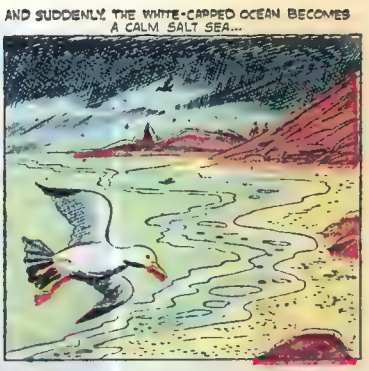

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT, GLORIA! HERE, TAKE THE FIELD GLASSES... MAYBE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE *THE MAN IN THE MOON!*
OH, MOTHER! STOP TEASING! I'LL LOOK, BUT YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL THERE IS NO SUCH PERSON!
ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST MYSTIC TALES!

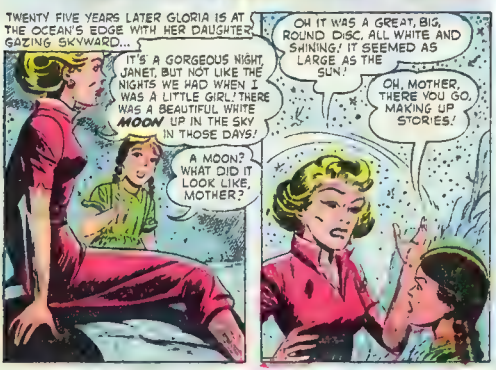
AND THE LITTLE GIRL SCANS THE POWDERY WHITE MOON THROUGH THE GLASSES, SEARCHING FOR THE MYSTERIOUS MAN...


NO, MOTHER, I WAS RIGHT! THERE *ISN'T* ANY MAN IN THE MOON!
OF COURSE THERE IS, GLORIA! WHY, I REMEMBER SEEING HIM THERE WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE! HE'S THE MAN WHO MAKES THE TIDES...WHO CAUSES THE WAVES TO RISE AND FALL!

NO! THE OCEAN HAS WAVES BECAUSE... IT WOULDN'T BE AN OCEAN WITHOUT WAVES!
NO, GLORIA! IT'S BECAUSE OF THE MAN IN THE MOON ...HE MAKES THEM! HE'S THERE, I'VE SEEN HIM! YOU MUST BELIEVE HE IS THERE IF I SAY SO... MOTHER KNOWS BEST!
BUT THE LITTLE GIRL ONLY BELIEVES WHAT SHE SEES...
MOTHER USUALLY KNOWS BEST...BUT JUST 'CAUSE SHE SAYS IT'S SO, DOESN'T MAKE IT SO! THERE IS NO MAN IN THE MOON!
MEANWHILE, AT THE MOUNT AEOLIS OBSERVATORY, A SCIENTIST EXCITEDLY POINTS TO HIS TELESCOPE'S REFLECTOR SCREEN...
NORSTAD! NORSTAD! COME QUICKLY! THERE'S A GIANT IRREGULAR COMET RACING THROUGH THE PLEIADES VECTOR!
WHAT.! BUT WE'VE PLOTTED NO COMET IN THAT QUARTER OF THE SKY!
MAYBE WE HAVEN'T, BUT THERE IT IS! JUST LOOK AT THAT TAIL!
I'M LOOKING AT SOMETHING ELSE... THAT MASS OF MOLTEN MATTER IS HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE MOON!
QUICKLY, THE ELECTRICAL COMPUTERS CALCULATE THE COMET'S COURSE...
Y-YOU WERE RIGHT...SHE'S ON A CRITICAL CRASH ORBIT AND JUDGING FROM THAT COMET'S SIZE...
WE'LL HAVE A FRONT ROW SEAT TO SEE THE END OF THE MOON!
TEARING THROUGH THE HEAVENS AT SUPERSONIC SPEED, THE COMET'S GASEOUS TAIL FLARES A FIERY ORANGE, LIKE AN UGLY SCAR ACROSS THE BLACK SPACE VOID, AS IT HURTLES TOWARDS THE NEARING MOON .
SUDDENLY, THE COMET FINDS ITS MARK IN A SHATTERING COLLISION!


GONE! THE COMET COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED THE MOON!
YES...OUR MOON IS ONLY SPACE JUNK NOW! BITS OF MOON DUST THAT WILL DRIFT AROUND EARTH FOR ALL ETERNITY!




TWENTY FIVE YEARS LATER GLORIA IS AT THE OCEAN'S EDGE WITH HER DAUGHTER GAZING SKYWARD...
IT'S A GORGEOUS NIGHT, JANET, BUT NOT LIKE THE NIGHTS WE HAD WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL! THERE WAS A BEAUTIFUL WHITE MOON UP IN THE SKY IN THOSE DAYS!
A MOON? WHAT DID IT LOOK LIKE, MOTHER?
OH IT WAS A GREAT, BIG, ROUND DISC, ALL WHITE AND SHINING! IT SEEMED AS LARGE AS THE SUN!
OH, MOTHER, THERE YOU GO, MAKING UP STORIES!
NO, JANET! IT'S TRUE! THERE WAS A MOON IN THE SKY! WHY, IT MADE THE OCEAN ROUGH AND FULL OF WHITE, HIGH, FOAMING WAVES!
MOTHER, I'M NOT A CHILD! I KNOW THE OCEAN DOESN'T HAVE ANY WAVES! WHY, IT'S CALM AS CAN BE...AND IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT, I'M SURE!

NO, JANET, NO! THERE WAS A BIG, WHITE MOON AND IT DID MAKE THE OCEAN RISE AND FALL! I SAW IT WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE! BELIEVE ME...MOTHER KNOWS BEST!

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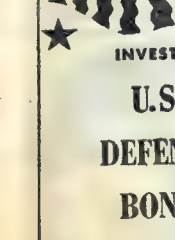

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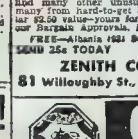

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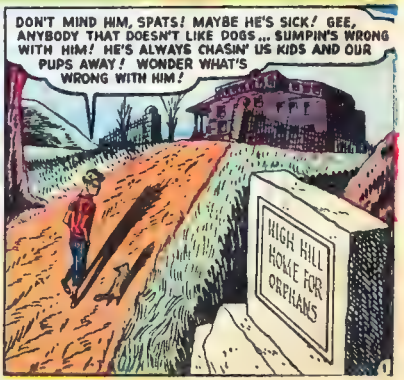
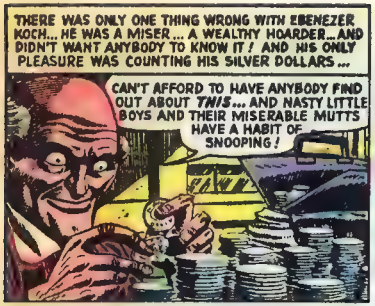
TO WIND UP OUR SOJOURN INTO MYSTERY, HARKEN TO THIS TALE OF AN OLD MISER! IT'S GOOD TO BE THRIFTY, OF COURSE—BUT WHEN YOU SEE WHAT EBENEZER'S SILVER DOLLAR BROUGHT THE OLD GEEZER, YOU'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE HOARDING YOUR MONEY IN YOUR OWN HOUSE!

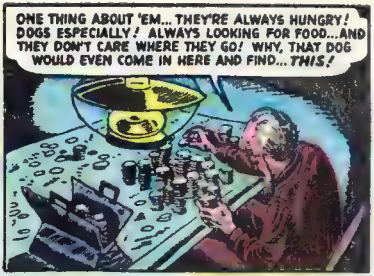
EVERY DOG HAS HIS DAY!

GET OUT OF HERE! I WON'T HAVE ANY MISERABLE HOUNDS ON MY PROPERTY! GET OUT, BOTH OF YOU, AND STAY OUT!
GEE WHIZ, MR. KOCH, SPATS WOULDN'T HURT ANYBODY!
ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST MYSTIC TALES!

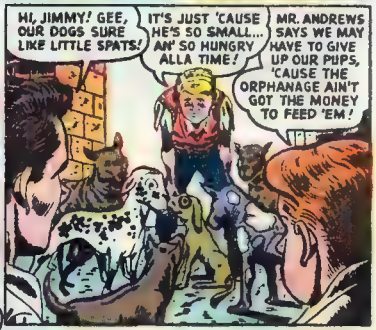
WELL, THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY... AND I DON'T WANT ANYBODY NOSEYING AROUND! LEAST OF ALL, YOU YOUNG HOODLUMS FROM THE ORPHANAGE! THEY OUGHT TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR MONGRELS UNDER LOCK AND KEY! NOW... GET OUT!
YES, SIR! WE'LL GET OUT!

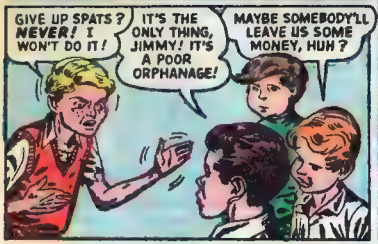

DON'T MIND HIM, SPATS! MAYBE HE'S SICK! GEE, ANYBODY THAT DOESN'T LIKE DOGS... SUMPIN'S WRONG WITH HIM! HE'S ALWAYS CHASIN' US KIDS AND OUR PUPS AWAY! WONDER WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM!
HIGH HILL HOME FOR ORPHANS

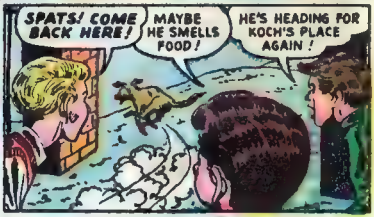

THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING WRONG WITH EBENEZER KOCH... HE WAS A MISER... A WEALTHY HOARDER...AND DIDN'T WANT ANYBODY TO KNOW IT! AND HIS ONLY PLEASURE WAS COUNTING HIS SILVER DOLLARS...
CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE ANYBODY FIND OUT ABOUT THIS... AND NASTY LITTLE BOYS AND THEIR MISERABLE MUTTS HAVE A HABIT OF SNOOPING!

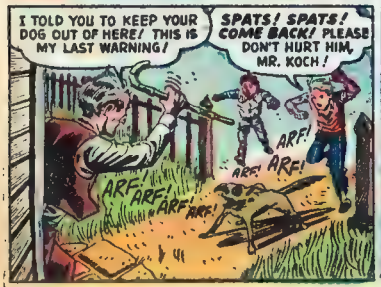

ONE THING ABOUT 'EM... THEY'RE ALWAYS HUNGRY! DOGS ESPECIALLY! ALWAYS LOOKING FOR FOOD...AND THEY DON'T CARE WHERE THEY GO! WHY, THAT DOG WOULD EVEN COME IN HERE AND FIND... THIS!

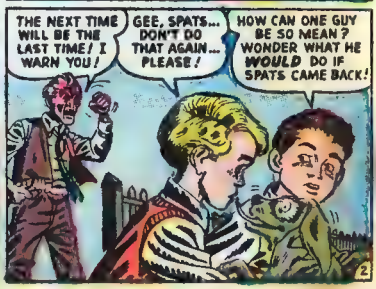
GOSH, SPATS... YOU'RE ALWAYS HUNGRY! THAT'S WHY YOU WENT OVER TO KOCH'S! BUT THAT GUY NEVER THROWS ANYTHING OUT! PLEASE TRY TO STAY OUTTA HIS PLACE AN' OUTTA TROUBLE, HUH?


HI, JIMMY! GEE, OUR DOGS SURE LIKE LITTLE SPATS!
IT'S JUST 'CAUSE HE'S SO SMALL... AN' SO HUNGRY ALLA TIME!
MR. ANDREWS SAYS WE MAY HAVE TO GIVE UP OUR PUPS, 'CAUSE THE ORPHANAGE AIN'T GOT THE MONEY TO FEED 'EM!


GIVE UP SPATS? NEVER! I WON'T DO IT!
IT'S THE ONLY THING, JIMMY! IT'S A POOR ORPHANAGE!
MAYBE SOMEBODY'LL LEAVE US SOME MONEY, HUH?


SPATS! COME BACK HERE!
MAYBE HE SMELLS FOOD!
HE'S HEADING FOR KOCH'S PLACE AGAIN!


I TOLD YOU TO KEEP YOUR DOG OUT OF HERE! THIS IS MY LAST WARNING!
SPATS! SPATS! COME BACK! PLEASE DON'T HURT HIM, MR. KOCH!
ARF! ARF! ARF! ARF! ARF! ARF!


THE NEXT TIME WILL BE THE LAST TIME! I WARN YOU!
GEE, SPATS... DON'T DO THAT AGAIN... PLEASE!
HOW CAN ONE GUY BE SO MEAN? WONDER WHAT HE WOULD DO IF SPATS CAME BACK!
2

THAT WAS CLOSE! THEY ALMOST CAUGHT ME WITH MY MONEY! WELL, I'LL FIX THAT PUP GOOD... I'LL USE HIS OWN HUNGER TO TRAP HIM!
THAT NIGHT, HIS STOMACH CRYING FOR FOOD, SPATS STOLE OUT OF HIS MASTER'S BED...
OUT OF THE WINDOW...
AND TOWARD THE ONLY OTHER PLACE HE KNEW OF... THAT OF EBENEZER KOCH!
AHA! HIS GREED FOR FOOD DROVE HIM TO THE POISONED MEAT! NOW I'LL BE RID OF THE SNOOPER FOR GOOD!
NOT DEAD YET, HUH? YOU SOON WILL BE... AFTER I BURY YOU! I'LL DIG A GRAVE... JUST FOR YOU!
KOCH CARRIED THE DYING DOG TO A SPOT FAR BEHIND HIS PROPERTY...
IT'LL BE NICE AND DEEP! THE MUTT WON'T EVER BE FOUND THERE! GOT TO BE CAREFUL I DON'T FALL IN MYSELF! IT'S AWFUL DARK HERE...
BUT AT THAT MOMENT, A STRANGE THING HAPPENED! SOME SIXTH SENSE AWOKE ONE OF THE OTHER DOGS BACK IN THE ORPHANAGE...
ANOTHER AWOKE... AND THEN ANOTHER! SILENTLY, THE DOGS TROOPED OUT OF THE BUILDING...

THE OLD MISER HAD DUG THE GRAVE AND TOSSED THE DEAD DOG'S BODY INTO IT, WHEN HE HEARD STRANGE SOUNDS COMING FROM HIS HOUSE...
WHAT'S THAT? NOISE... FROM MY HOUSE!
SOMEONE'S IN THERE! MY MONEY! MY MONEY!
WHO'S IN THERE? WHO IS IT? SPEAK UP!
DOGS! MY HOUSE IS FULL OF DOGS! AND... THEY'VE GOT MY MONEY!
WITH A MAD RUSH, THE DOGS LEAPED PAST KOCH AND INTO THE NIGHT...
WAIT! DON'T TAKE MY MONEY! PLEASE! IF YOU GO OUT THERE I'LL NEVER FIND YOU! IT'S SO DARK!
COME BACK! DON'T TAKE MY MONEY!
THEN... GLISTENING EVEN IN THE DARK... KOCH SAW IT...
THERE... THERE'S ONE OF MY SILVER DOLLARS! THERE MUST BE A HOLE IN THE BAG! THEY'RE DROPPING OUT!

HUNGER... WHETHER FOR FOOD OR FOR MONEY... IS A DESPERATE THING! IT DROVE SPATS TO HIS GRAVE, AND EBENEZER KOCH... ***WHERE? ON THE TRAIL OF THE SILVER DOLLARS!***

AHA! THOUGHT THEY'D GET AWAY WITH IT, EH? BUT THEY'RE LEADING ME RIGHT TO WHERE THEY'RE GOING WITH MY MONEY! ***DOGS!*** OH, HOW I ***HATE*** THEM!

YES, HE WAS LUCKY, ALL RIGHT! THE DOGS WENT ON IN THE DARK, AND THE SILVER DOLLARS KEPT DROPPING OUT, LEAVING AN EASY TRAIL FOR EBENEZER KOCH TO FOLLOW...

THERE WAS NO OTHER GUIDE FOR EBENEZER BUT THE DOLLARS! EVERYTHING ELSE WAS PITCH-BLACK, BUT HE DIDN'T CARE...

MONEY! MONEY!

THEN... IT WAS COMPLETELY DARK, BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP HIM! HE KNEW THAT ANOTHER DOLLAR WOULD BE JUST AHEAD, SO HE ***COULDN'T STOP!***

THEY WENT THIS WAY! I'VE GOT TO KEEP GOING!

SO HE KEPT GOING ON AND ON, UNTIL...

YEEEEOOWW

AAAAAEEEE

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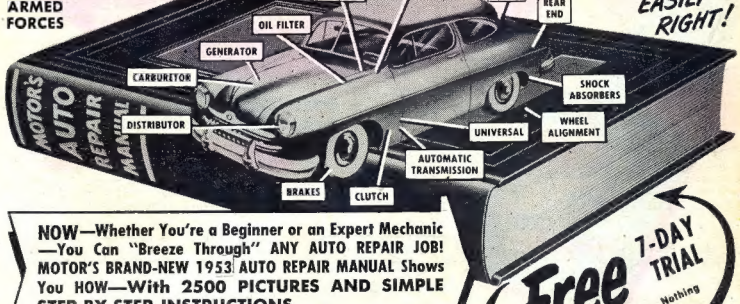

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By every standard the most thrillingly beautiful assortment of exquisite, original, EXCLUSIVE DESIGN Christmas Cards in America! 21 large-size cards —every one different! Sells for only $1.00—your profit up to 50c.

No Other Company Offers These Sensations!

Pictured here are only three of the more than 40 quality greeting card assortments and other items in the Wallace Brown line. Rush coupon for samples and money-making details.

Picturama Christmas Assortment

Sensational new idea—dramatic designs open up to complete Christmas panoramas of popular subjects in many lovely, gleaming colors. Sells for only $1.00. Your profit up to 50c.

Merry Christmas Comics Assortment

Newest rage! A fun-packed assortment of gay and clever Christmas Cards. Every design a thrilling surprise! Sells for $1.00—your profit up to 50c.

Famous Nationally Advertised Christmas and Everyday Box Assortments and Personal Christmas Cards

YOU DON'T NEED ANY EXPERIENCE AND WE SEND YOU SAMPLES

Here's the easiest and most pleasant way in the world to make the extra money you want! Simply show the lovely, exclusive assortments of Greeting Cards by Wallace Brown to your friends and neighbors! My, how fast they'll order from you when they see the gorgeous cards for Christmas and all occasions! You make more money with America's leading designs, amazing new, completely-different, original creations offered by no other company. Yes, balanced assortments of lavish, costly cards—gorgeous papers including suedes and parchment, jewelled "glitter", velvety "flocking", novel folds and cut-outs—each assortment an eye-filling treasure and a money-saving value. Just wait until you see the many surprises! Mail the coupon below NOW for actual samples on approval.

Assortments Everyone Loves for Christmas and All Occasions—and Many Fast-Selling Gift Items Too!

You've never even imagined you could offer such wonder-values, all from one company. Only a few are listed below:

CHRISTMAS ASSORTMENTS: Besides those shown on this page you offer luxurious Golden Suede Assortment, Currier and Ives, "flocked" Christmas Velvet Assortment, Religious Scripture Texts, Gift-Wrapping Ensembles, unbelievably rich and exquisite Genuine PARCHMENT Assortment—and many others.

PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS: Exclusive, high quality cards with name imprinted, at low money-saving prices. We ship direct to your customers!

EVERYDAY ASSORTMENTS: "Feature" All-Occasion, Barrel-of-Fun Comics, Velvet Beauties Assortment, Rainbow Petals, Gift Wrappings, Gift Ribbons, and many others.

GIFT ITEMS: Floral Stationery, Imported Napkins, Children's Books, Personal Notes, "Shakespeare Howls" Napkins, Novelties, many others.

Send No Money!

MAIL THE COUPON FOR THE BEAUTIFUL SAMPLES!

Don't send a single penny! Just your name and address on the coupon in this ad. Actual sample of the exciting, easy-selling "Feature" 21-Card Christmas Assortment shown on this page—PLUS FREE SAMPLES of Personal, name-imprinted Christmas Cards—will be mailed to you at once, prepaid, with complete information and money-making plans. Mail the coupon NOW.

WALLACE BROWN, INC., Dept. D-47 225 Fifth Ave., New York 10, N.Y.

Paste this coupon on a postcard or mail in envelope for actual samples, sent on approval.

WALLACE BROWN, INC., Dept. D-47
225 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Please rush at once sample of the "Feature" 21-Card Christmas Assortment on approval, and FREE Samples Personal Christmas Cards, with details of complete line and money-making plans.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____